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**Governor Baker Nominates Worcester Lawyer William J. Ritter as  
Superior Court Associate Justice**

**BOSTON**— Today, Governor Charlie Baker nominated William J. Ritter to the position of Associate Justice of the Superior Court. Ritter has nearly thirty years of litigation experience, the past twenty as a partner at Pojani, Hurley, & Ritter, LLP in Worcester. Ritter would fill the seat of Justice James L. Lemire, who was elevated by Governor Baker to the Appeals Court last July.

“The depth of Attorney Ritter’s three decades of experience in litigation matters will well serve the attorneys and litigants in the Superior Court,” **said Governor Baker**. “I am pleased to submit his name for the Governor’s Council’s advice and consent.”

“Attorney Ritter has dedicated himself to practicing at the highest level of the law and is known for his tireless work ethic,” **said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito**. “His sense of duty to the Commonwealth and community service with sports teams and first-generation college students demonstrate a character well suited to serve the people of Massachusetts.”

The Superior Court is a statewide court of general jurisdiction - handling both criminal and civil actions. The court’s 82 justices sit in 20 courthouses in all 14 counties of the Commonwealth. The court has exclusive original jurisdiction of first degree murder cases and original jurisdiction of all other crimes.

For more information about the Superior Court, please visit:  
<http://www.mass.gov/courts/court-info/trial-court/sc/>

Judicial nominations are subject to the advice and consent of the Governor's Council. Applicants for judicial openings are reviewed by the Judicial Nominating Commission (JNC) and recommended to the governor. Governor Baker established the JNC in February, 2015 pursuant to Executive Order 558, a non-partisan, non-political Commission composed of volunteers from a cross-section of the Commonwealth's diverse population to screen judicial applications. Twenty-one members were later appointed to the JNC in April, 2015.

### **About William J. Ritter**

William J. Ritter has practiced for 25 years with Pojani, Hurley, and Ritter, LLP, serving as Managing Partner since 2007. His law practice includes complex commercial disputes, construction and employment law matters, as well as real estate and land use litigation. Ritter has been named a "Super Lawyer" by Boston Magazine for the last seven years. He graduated *cum laude* with a Bachelor of Arts in Legal Studies from the University of Massachusetts – Amherst in 1983, and obtained his *Juris Doctorate*, graduating *cum laude* from Suffolk University Law School in 1988. He has been a member of the Town of Holden Planning Board since 1994 and is a Board Member for the Worcester Regional Research Bureau. He coached youth sports for many years and currently volunteers for Bottom Line, an organization dedicated to helping first generation students get to and through college. He currently lives in Holden.

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